

MINUTES for
Meeting of the Environmental Education Committee Meeting
Of the Partnership for A Green City
October 21, 2009; 4:30 to 5:30 pm
Louisville Nature Center

Members Present: T. Phillipson-Mower, K. Goodwin, S. Ferrell, J.Fried, R. Fackler, B. Ruhe, P. Williams-Harris, J. Gardner, L. Wuorenmaa, A. Hapner, L. Cross, S. Green, C. Page, B. Fryrear

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rosetta Fackler gave an overview of the Louisville Nature Center. We have not met here in a long time and much has changed. Rosetta invited teachers and others to use the resources that are available when planning their educational events.

II. Changes to agenda - none

III. **Old business**

A. Bioneers event and participation (Bioneers ad-hoc committee)

Rosetta Fackler gave her overview of the Bioneers and said that the technology present at the conference was a great opportunity to hear the keynote speakers, the other students from Illinois were great, etc. Kandris and others expressed their disappointment that more families and children did not come to their session. It was noted that this could have been because the room was on the second floor of Davidson instead of with the others on the other floor. Also, Teddie noted that the majority of people that attended were in their 20's and perhaps more advertising to families and students would have helped. Teddie said that advertising was difficult since few understood what Bioneers was all about. She believes that next year it will be easier since Jim Bruggers of the Courier Journal, Kristin Espeland of the local NPR station, and Jennifer Olidapo a free lance journalist were part of the event and understand what it is about now. The CJ and the U of L paper did a good job of letting people know about the event but it would be nice next year to have an article on some of the sessions prior to the event. Teddie would like to see more engagement with those that don't normally come to environmental events. Lorraine Cross said that she was not clear about costs from the website information and thought that the website should have had local information earlier. Teddie agreed and said that she would like to see the local schedule in place two months before the event. The idea of charging came up and some said that they thought it would deter some people from coming to the conference.

The idea of having it at another time next year came up, but this isn't possible because it is a national event and the National Bioneers Conference determines the dates. Teddie pointed out that next year the National Bioneers event will include Europe and Africa for the first time making it an international event that Louisville will want to be a part of. She asked that every one keep on the look out for individuals and groups that are innovative and seeking social and scientific answers from nature – especially education.

The University gave in-kind donations which were substantial (Planetarium, Provosts office, technology). Brent Fryrear, Director of the Partnership for a Green City and Drew Foster, the Technology Director for the Rauch Planetarium deserve special mention for their hard work before and during the conference. The count for the amount of participants was at about 200 and it went up and down throughout the weekend. Goals for the EEC for the 2009-2010 year.

Teddie thanked the EEC for their involvement and asked that next year they become even more involved than this year, as part of the Partnership for a Green City.

B. **EEC goals for the 2009-2010 academic year.** Last month there were seven ideas put forth. After discussion, we put them into five goals and voted on the top three.

1. Support of environmental magnet (E Health/E Science/E Technology) schools such as expertise, time, and talent. Recommendations to the School Board to build into the curriculum an awareness of careers, skills and courses that will lead to “green” jobs.
2. Update the current resources list of people and materials helpful for educators and put together a local climate change resource list for educators.
3. Promote the interdisciplinary nature of environmental education (i.e. Rivers of Words Program) through curriculum and support to schools.
4. Support School gardens
5. Establish a promotion and policy committee on the EEC.

Notes: Kandris suggested the policy idea and the committee discussed it. She said that many times the work that is done on garden projects, etc. is reversed when people leave and are hired. In order to benefit in the long term, we need to work on institutionalizing the projects we work on. For example, David Crawford had a beautiful productive garden for many years that was paved over for more parking space because of administrative decisions not lack of interest. Now, we are starting work on another garden. There was discussion about other ideas for policy.

The committee decided on the following goals for the year:

1. Interdisciplinary nature of EE
2. School Gardens
3. Promotion and policy committee

C. **Youth Summit report.** Julie Shinton, Judy Gardner, and Fidel Simmons. Attendees were from Bullitt, Shelby and Oldham as well as Jefferson Counties. Julie reported that 17 schools have asked for mentors to visit their school, up considerably from last year. Fidel Simmons, who is interning for the UofL Center for Environmental Education, is working on developing this internship program and has already provided valuable service in this area. We will identify the inventory that the schools would like to focus on first and will continue to build the inventory list through Fidel. The Committee is looking at the types of sessions that the students are interested in for next time and which schools want to know more about the Earth Force Model. The goals and support for the next Youth Summit will be tallied through the surveys and reported back to the committee. March 17, 2010 is the spring Youth Summit date. The planning committee consists of Julie Shinton-Fried, Judy Gardner, Kandris Goodwin, Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Russ Barnett, and Brent Fryrear.

D. **NAAEE conference report.** Kandris and Teddie presented a session on the Youth Summit. Darleen Horton (Cane Run Elementary Environmental Education Resource Teacher),

(Portland Elementary Environmental Education Resource Teacher), and David Wicks attended the conference. Teddie, along with the other KUPEE members, presented on the Kentucky University Partnership for Environmental Education and had a nice size audience for a Saturday afternoon. We would like to find funding so that others from Jefferson County can attend. Kentucky had a good showing. The next meeting is in North Carolina. We should start thinking about what we would like to present at the next meeting as a group.

IV. New business

- A. **Healthy Foods/Local Farms conference on November 6th and 7th.** This event will focus on those organizations that support school gardens. The targeted audience is students, teachers, and administrators interested in establishing outdoor gardens with an emphasis on sustainability. We will meet in the Manual High School Parking lot at 8:30 am. You must preregister. Friday's event is almost filled. For more information go to: <http://www.healthyfoodslocalfarmsconference.org>
- B. **Manual Garden support.** We are looking for individuals and partners for the Manual outdoor classroom. So far, UofL Center for Environmental Education and Slow Foods Bluegrass are partners with the Environmental Club (David Crawford is the faculty sponsor). The students are fired up and want to get moving on this project. As of today, there are seven piles of compost/soil beside each of the seven raised beds that need to be shoveled into the boxes. THANKS JIM FAGENBUSH for transporting the soil from the landfill to the school! – Tuesdays 2:30 PM (room 210) with the environmental club. If you work with the Manual students you must have a criminal background check and be approved as a volunteer by JCPS. See Teddie or Kandris for more information.
- C. **Morning Show.** Denise Fitzpatrick called Teddie and said she would like to have morning show coverage for the Healthy Foods/Local Farms conference. Unfortunately, it is a day off for the students so they aren't as excited about this as they would be normally. Teddie is going to see if we can't arrange for a day earlier in the week and have GRASS students involved.
- D. **Steps to achieve the goals.** We will send the minutes out with a separate note asking that members decide which working group they would like to be on to make sure that our goals are met this year. Working group members do not have to be a part of the normal EEC. We will look for three people to lead these three groups through the academic year

V. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Williams-Harris